

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A build-to-order manufacturing facility  
comprising:

- 5 a kitting facility where components are collected  
for a specific order for a specific customer;
- an on-site server that contains a software product  
required by the specific order for the specific customer;
- a build cell that receives the components from the  
kitting facility;
- 10 a build station in the build cell, where the  
components are assembled into a computer in response to a  
specific order for a specific customer;
- a burn station in the build cell that receives the  
computer from the build station;
- 15 a first network connection in the burn station that  
links the computer in the build cell with the on-site  
server, such that the software product can be transferred  
from on the on-site server to the computer in the build  
cell via the first network connection, in accordance with
- 20 the specific order for the specific customer;
- a finishing station that receives the computer from  
the burn station after the software product has been  
transferred to the computer from on the on-site server;
- a supplemental network connection in the finishing  
25 station that links the computer in the build cell with an  
off-site server that contains proprietary software of the  
specific customer, such that the proprietary software of  
the specific customer can be transferred from the off-  
site server to the computer in the build cell via the
- 30 supplemental network connection; and

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PATENT APPLICATION

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a boxing facility where the computer is packaged after the proprietary software of the specific customer has been transferred to the computer from the off-site server.

2. A build-to-order manufacturing facility  
comprising:

a build cell where components are assembled into a  
computer in response to a specific order for a specific  
5 customer;

a first network connection that links the computer  
in the build cell with an on-site server, such that data  
from the on-site server can be transferred to the  
computer in the build cell via the first network  
10 connection, in accordance with the specific order for the  
specific customer; and

a supplemental network connection that links the  
computer in the build cell with an off-site server  
containing proprietary data of the specific customer,  
15 such that the proprietary data of the specific customer  
can be transferred from the off-site server to the  
computer in the build cell via the supplemental network  
connection.

20 3. The manufacturing facility of Claim 2, wherein  
the supplemental network connection facilitates  
transference of proprietary software of the specific  
customer from the off-site server to the computer in the  
build cell.

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4. The manufacturing facility of Claim 2, wherein  
the supplemental network connection facilitates  
transference of predetermined configuration settings from  
the off-site server to the computer in the build cell.

5. The manufacturing facility of Claim 2, wherein the data in the on-site server comprises software to be transferred to the computer in accordance with the specific order for the specific customer.

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6. The manufacturing facility of Claim 2, further comprising:

a burn station in the build cell that includes the first network connection.

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7. The manufacturing facility of Claim 2, wherein: the supplemental network connection comprises a data port of a satellite link to the off-site server.

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8. The manufacturing facility of Claim 2, further comprising:

a finishing station in the build cell that includes the supplemental network connection.

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9. The manufacturing facility of Claim 8, wherein the finishing station accommodates the computer during transference of the proprietary data of the specific customer from the off-site server to the computer.

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10. The manufacturing facility of Claim 2, further comprising the on-site server.

11. The manufacturing facility of Claim 2, further comprising:

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a boxing facility where the computer is packaged.

12. The manufacturing facility of Claim 2, further comprising:

a kitting facility where the components are collected.

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13. The manufacturing facility of Claim 2, further comprising:

a shipping facility where the computer is tendered to a carrier for shipment to the specific customer.

14. A build cell for assembling computers and loading data into the computers according to specific customer orders, the build cell comprising:

5 a build station where components are assembled into a computer in response to a specific order for a specific customer;

a burn station in the build cell that receives the computer from the build station;

10 a first network connection that links the computer in the build cell with an on-site server, such that data from the on-site server can be transferred to the computer in the build cell via the first network connection, in accordance with the specific order for the specific customer; and

15 a supplemental network connection that links the computer in the build cell with an off-site server containing proprietary data of the specific customer, such that the proprietary data of the specific customer can be transferred from the off-site server to the  
20 computer in the build cell via the supplemental network connection.

15. The build cell of Claim 14, wherein the supplemental network connection facilitates transference  
25 of proprietary software of the specific customer from the off-site server to the computer in the build cell.

16. The build cell of Claim 14, wherein the supplemental network connection facilitates transference of predetermined configuration settings from the off-site server to the computer in the build cell.

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17. The build cell of Claim 14, wherein the first network connection facilitates transference of software from the on-site server to the computer.

10 18. The build cell of Claim 14, further comprising a burn station that includes the first network connection.

15 19. The build cell of Claim 14, further comprising:  
a finishing station that includes the supplemental network connection;

wherein the supplemental network connection comprises a data port of a satellite link to the off-site server; and

20 wherein the finishing station accommodates the computer during transference of the proprietary data of the specific customer from the off-site server to the computer.

20. An assembly unit for assembling computers and loading data into the computers according to specific customer orders, the assembly unit comprising:

5 a build cell where components are assembled into a computer in response to a specific order for a specific customer;

a first network connection that links the computer in the build cell with an on-site server, such that data from the on-site server can be transferred to the  
10 computer in the build cell via the first network connection, in accordance with the specific order for the specific customer; and

a supplemental network connection that links the computer in the build cell with an off-site server  
15 containing proprietary data of the specific customer, such that the proprietary data of the specific customer can be transferred from the off-site server to the computer in the build cell via the supplemental network connection.